

*for background information
has we began the Rescue
Committee*

Ishii Building
6-44 Kagurazaka
Shinjuku-ku
Tokyo, Japan

August 12, 1974

Memo from: International Committee to Support Kim Chi-Ha and His Friends, Japan Section

To: Members of the Committee all over the world.

It is a historical moment when so many of us join together in the rescue efforts for Kim Chi-Ha and other Korean political prisoners. Kim Chi-Ha, in his poems, speaks not only for the people of his own country, but for oppressed people everywhere.

We enclose a copy of the petition of July 10th and an extract of the list of signatories, a copy of the "Declaration of Conscience" made by Catholic Bishop Tji, and some other materials. The Declaration of Conscience reminds me (personally) of Bonhoeffer's stand in 1944 in Germany.

We are now preparing the English language manuscript of some of Kim Chi-Ha's poems, and we will let you know the publishing date. We will continue to send out reports of our activities from time to time.

May we urge you wherever you are to continue to rally support and new members for our Committee.

The original appeal on behalf of Kim Chi-Ha was composed one hour after hearing that the death sentence had been demanded for him. Since then our work has been to rally support internationally.

We have held three major rallies in Tokyo so far. All together about 3500 people participated. Many small demonstrations have also happened in Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe. In a small demonstration in Kobe, about forty people encircled the Korean consulate. Five or six years ago demonstrations opposing the Korea-Japan normalization treaty could mobilize only 30 or 40 people. But the size of the demonstrations the Kim Chi-Ha situation draws clearly shows the growing concern among Japanese people at large. The Afro-Asian Writers Conference printed 5000 pamphlets for one of the Tokyo rallies which all sold out. 5000 more are scheduled to be printed. We enclose a copy.

There has also been a wave of hunger strikes here for the support of Kim Chi-Ha. The first one was held in Sukiyabashi, Tokyo, amid the traffic congestion of the Ginza. Participating were three Korean writers living in Japan, and two Japanese. It lasted for three days. This was continued by three Korean students for another three days. Then two Japanese writers and two Korean writers, including Kim Dar-Su, one of the major Korean novelists today, continued for another few days. In Kyoto a day laborer, Mr. Maida, is now on hunger strike and there are plans for hunger strikes in Kanazawa and Yokosuka from the 14th to the 16th.

Hunger strikes are a new thing in the history of the Japanese movement. In Japan there is a long history of discrimination of Koreans by Japanese, but these strikes, composed of both Koreans and Japanese, are a manifestation of a new solidarity, and this spirit was effectively communicated to passers-by. Within the eight days of the hunger strikes in Tokyo, almost 2 million yen (about \$7000) was collected in small donations from passers-by. These donations were the financial basis for our being able to send a mission to Korea with our petition on August 8, 1974.

Recently an interesting situation has developed in regard to the PEN club here in Japan. The PEN club sent a telegram petition for the life of Kim Chi-Ha to the Korean government. After that, they sent two members, Mr. Fujishima and Mr. Shirai, as representatives to look into Kim Chi-Ha's case. In Korea these two held a press conference which was reported by Japanese newspapers. In this conference they stated that there was no suppression of free speech and that they believed that Kim Chi-Ha was convicted for his political activities, his conviction having no connection whatsoever with his writings. They also said that to criticize the death sentence would be presumptuous on their part, so the PEN club wouldn't criticize the Korean government.

These statements angered many members of the club, and about twenty members have resigned so far. Those who resigned include Mr. Serizawa, the president of the PEN club, who is visiting Switzerland at this time. Of the three vice presidents, one has resigned and the other two are in favor of not criticizing the Korean government and Fujishima and Shirai too severely. Many others haven't resigned but have made manifest their desire to reform the PEN club in the direction of defending the freedom of expression in Japan and elsewhere.

This situation has aroused much interest in Japan, and newspapers carry articles and editorial every day; it even turns up in newspaper cartoons. The general impression is that the Japanese PEN club does not defend Kim Chi-Ha. (see enclosed newspaper clipping.)

On the eighth of August, a five-person mission went to Korea with a copy of our petition. The mission members were Hidaka Rokuro (Chairman), Ohshima Kohichi, Fuji-eda Mioko, George Wald, and Fred Branfman. We enclose their August 8 open letter to President Park. The request of the Mission for an interview with President Park Chung Hee was turned down. But they had a one hour long meeting with Foreign Minister Kim Dong-Jo on August 10th set up by the U.S. Consulate. They tried to hand the petition addressed to President Park to the Foreign Minister, but he refused to accept it. (see enclosed newspaper clipping.)

Another interesting development was the meeting on August 8 at the Palace Hotel (from which Kim Dae-Jung was kidnapped last year) between the chairmans of all opposition political parties in Japan (except Minsha) and Makoto Oda, leader of the newly formed Japanese citizens movement which grew partly out of the former "Beiheiren" group.

This is the first time in modern Japanese history that representatives of opposition parties and a citizens group have met and agreed to work together. In a press conference after the meeting, they stated that they would ask the Japanese government to reconsider its position on economic aid to Korea in view of the ill-treatment of Kim Chi-Ha, Kim Dae-Jung and also the two Japanese, Hayakawa and Tachikawa, sentenced to long prison terms in Korea.

The groups agreed to hold a joint demonstration in mid-September protesting the present Japanese government aid to South Korea, and against the oppressive government decrees of President Park in Korea.

Please let us know about your activities.

Our greetings,

for the International Committee,

Nicola Geiger

ON BEHALF OF KIM CHI-HA AND HIS FRIENDS

Kim Chi-Ha, a Korean poet, was arrested for the violation of the national security law and, on July 9th, the prosecutor demanded his death penalty in the military court.

We who have respect for this poet through his works such as "The Five Bandits", "Groundless Rumors" and "Copper Statue of Admiral Yi", protest against his sentence.

Kim Chi-Ha, as a Catholic poet, wrote these works and has thrown himself into social movement according to his faith as a man and a christian. We believe that Kim's friends who are imprisoned with him voiced their protest proper to man to seek freedom from poverty and oppression present in South Korea today.

We request President Pak of the Korean Republic to release the poet, Kim Chi-Ha.

We request President Pak of the Korean Republic to listen to the voice of the people expressed in Kim Chi-Ha's works and release Kim Chi-Ha's friends.

July 10th, 1974.

The International Committee to
Support Kim Chi-Ha and His Friends

SIGNATORIES (extract)

Australia

Ken Mcleod

Association for International Cooperation and
Disarmament

Bahrein

Ibrahim El-Orayed

Head Representative, Writers' Committee

Canada

Judith Merrill

Scientific Fiction Writer

J. MacPherson

Poet

Margarete Atwood

Poet

Earle Birney

Poet

John Robert Colombo

Poet

Don Gutteridge

Poet

Colleen Thidaudeau

Poet

Dennis A. Lee

Poet

James Raney

Poet

Raymond Souster

Poet

Jarry and Arlene Lampard

League of Canadian Poets, Executive Members

Marian Engel

President of Canadian Writers Union

Jane Jacobs

Writer

Graeme Gibson

Writer

Kildare Dobbs

Writer

Morley Callaghan

Novelist

E.F. Carey

United Church of Canada, Asia secretary

James Endicott

Kathryn Herzberg

Canadian Friends Service

Gregory Baum

Catholic Theologian

John Webster Brand

Church Historian

Robert Fullford

Editor

William Toye

Editor

Nancy Posock

Canadian Voice of Women, Vice President

Albin Lee

University Vice President

Northrop Frye

Critic

John Buttrick

Economist

Jerome Zeitlin

Sociologist

Esther Zeitlin

Sociologist

Bernhard Luft

CBC Producer

Ann Butler

Peace Worker

Arnold Edinburgh

Journalist

Eugene Forsey

Senator

John Sewell

Alderman of Toronto

Walter Young

Professor, Head of Dept. of Political Science, University
of British Columbia (UBC)

June Hallwood

Vice President of Canadian Civil Liberties Association

Jerry Condon

Exiled American War Resisters

Elizabeth Eayers

Toronto Alderman

John Foster

United Church researcher

James Foulkes

M.D., Professor of Pharmacology

Penni Frazer

Education officer

Margaret Fulton

Dean of Women, UBC

A.J. McLean

Dean of Faculty of Law, UBC

Thomas Perry

Professor, Medical Department, UBC

Margaret Prang
P.M. Remnart
Rec Robson
Maria Hardan
Dan Heap
Mardi Jackson
William Kilborn
David Knight
E.W.M. McDonald
David Suzuki
Colin Vaughan
George Woodcock
Morese Wilkinson

Professor, Head of Dept. of History, UBC
Professor, Dept. of Philosophy, UBC
Professor of Sociology, UBC
Poet
Anglican Priest
Journalist
Historian
Novelist and poet
Physician
Professor of Zoology, UBC
Writer
Writer
Acting General Secretary of Canadian Council of Churches

Federal Republic of Germany

Willy Brandt

President, Social Democratic Party

France

Jean-Paul Sartre

Writer

Great Britain

David Boggett
Louis Wolf
Frank Allann

Journalist
Journalist
Member, National Executive Committee of the Labour Party
Secretary General, International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace
Member, National Executive Committee of the Labour Party
Chairman, Parliamentary Labour Party
Professor, Cambridge University
Member, National Executive Committee of the Labour Party

Peggy Duff

Lenz Jeger

Ian Mikardo
Joseph Needham
Renee Short

Japan

Kohei Hanazaki
Shohei Imamura
Goichi Matsunaga
Ichiro Mikuni
Naokichi Ubukata
Ichie Watanabe
Yasue Yamamoto
Fujio Akatsuka
Yasushi Akutagawa
Shin Aochi
Yukio Aoshima
Hideo Aragaki
Ikuma Dan
Hideo Den
Shusaku Endo
Mioko Fujieda
Mitsusada Fukusaku
Mitsutoshi Furuya
Yutaka Hata

Philosopher
Movie Director
Poet
T.V. Commentator
Sinologist
Physicist
Actress
Cartoonist
Composer
Writer
Member, the House of Councilors
Writer
Composers
Member, the House of Councilors
Novelist
Editor of Children's Books
College President
Cartoonist
Member, the House of Councilors

Rokuro Hidaka	Sociologist
Teruji Hirayama	Pastor
Katsuichi Honda	Journalist
Hakugen Ichikawa	Buddhist Priest
Jiro Iinuma	University Professor
Ayako Ishigaki	Writer
Shinkichi Ito	Poet
Mitsuharu Kaneko	Poet
Yoshimitsu Kasahara	Pastor
Junji Kinoshita	Playwright
Yotaro Konaka	Novelist
Keinosuke Kubo	Movie Producer
Senji Kuroi	Novelist
Shimpei Kusano	Poet
Takeo Kuwabara	Writer
Masao Maruyama	Political Scientist
Nobuhiko Matsugi	Novelist
Seicho Matsumoto	Novelist
Akio Miyahara	Novelist
Kyozo Mori	Journalist
Kinju Morikawa	Lawyer
Seikyo Muchaku	Teacher
Kimhide Mashakoji	Political Scientist
Michiko Nagai	Novelist
Masaaki Nakajima	Pastor
Kusatao Nakamura	Haiku Poet
Takeshi Nakamura	Novelist
Yoshio Nakamura	Novelist
Etsuko Niki	Novelist
Hiroshi Noma	Novelist
Makoto Oda	Novelist
Kyosen Ohashi	T.V. Commentator
Kenzaburo Oh-e	Novelist
Shin Oh-oka	Poet
Shohei Oh-oka	Novelist
Itsuko Okabe	Essayist
Aihiko Okamoto	Movie Director
Koichi Oshima	College President
Koeko Sada	Novelist
Kazuo Sano	Novelist
Shotaro Shiba	Novelist
Sho Shibata	Novelist
Sampei Shirato	Cartoonist
Soichiro Tahara	T.V. Director
Shuntaro Tanigawa	Poet
Kazuko Tsurumi	Sociologist
Shunsuke Tsurumi	Writer
Masuo Ureshino	Journalist
Haruki Wada	Historian
Hitomi Yamaguchi	Novelist
Shotaro Yasuoka	Novelist
Junnosuke Yoshiyuki	Novelist

Korean Residents (North and South) in Japan

Choung Kyungmo	Writer
Hong Ku Sung	Painter
I Fue Song	Novelist
Kang Je Un	Historian
Kang Sun	Poet
Kim Kyung-Sik	Playwright
Kim Si Jong	Poet
Kim Suok-Puom	Novelist
Kim Tal-Soo	Novelist
Ko Sa Myong	Novelist
Li Chul	Poet
Li Jin-Hi	Historian
Pak Hi Sung	Photographer
Pak Kyung Sik	Historian
Yun Hak Chun	Critic

Norway

Johan Galtung	Director, Peace Institute, Oslo
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South Africa

Alex da Guma	Vice-Chairman, Afro-Asian Writers Conference
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Thailand

Leek Angkul	Member of National Legislative
Raem Boonyzprasop	Member of National Legislative
Marut Bunnag	Member of National Legislative
Otarn Chipravat	Advisor to Prime Minister
Singtoh Changtakul	Member of National Legislative
Amorn Chardarasomboon	Member of National Legislative
Prasit Choopirij	Member of National Legislative
Krachang Dhamachoti	Member of National Legislative
Prakong Dhavarudha	Member of National Legislative
Pramuen Goolmart	Member of National Legislative
Aanae Jamarik	Member of National Legislative
Chamlong Jeraruth	Member of National Legislative
Virat Kamudamas	Member of National Legislative
Preedee Kasemsup	Member of National Legislative
Prathuang Kirtiputra	Member of National Legislative
Sansern Kraicitti	Member of National Legislative
Kanung Luchai	Member of National Legislative
Ambhorn Meesook	Member of National Legislative
Chmras Mongklaratana	Member of National Legislative
Pramote Nakornthab	Member of National Legislative
Pasom Petchmrut	Advisor to Prime Minister
Sakda Saibua	Member of National Legislative
Pongpen Sakuntabhai	Member of National Legislative
Sood Sangvichien	Member of National Legislative
Kamol Sindhavananda	Member of National Legislative
Pryat Sonakanat	Member of National Legislative
Prathip Sonthisuwa	Advisor to Prime Minister
Somkid Sreesangkom	Member of National Legislative
Kittirat Srivisarvach	Member of National Legislative
Pairot Suwannako	Member of National Legislative

United States of America

Richard Barnett	Institute for Policy Status
John C. Bennett	President Emeritus, Union Theological Seminary
Anne Bennett	Protestant Church Women
Philip Berrigan	Catholic Priest
Fred Branfman	Operation Air War in Washington
Owen Chamberlain	Nobel Laureate
Robert Chenoweth	Former Vietnam Prisoner of War
Noam Chomsky	Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Jerome Cohen	Professor, Harvard Law School
Ray Cohen	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
James Daly	Catholic Worker
David Dellinger	Editor, Magazine "Liberation"
Madely Duckles	San Francisco Bay Area Women for Peace
Vincent Duckles	Professor, Berkley
Ralph Di Gi	War Resisters League
Richard Falk	Professor, Princeton University
Sanford Gottlieb	National Committee for Sane Nuclear Policy
Lynn Hodges	Northern California Ecumenical Council
Michael Clare	North American Congress on Latin America
Ying Lee Kelley	Berkley City Council
Cora Weiss	Women's Strike for Peace
Peter Weiss	The Center for Constitutional Rights
Murray Levin	Professor, Boston University
Robert Jay Lifton	Yale University
Don Luce	Clergy and Laity Concerned
Salvador Luria	Professor, Nobel Laureate
Elizabeth McAlister	
Vincent McGee, Jr.	Author and Consultant
Fay B. Knopp	
Nicola Geiger	
David Napier	President, Pacific School of Religion, Berkley
Dorothy Day	Catholic Worker
Joy Napier	Churchwoman
Richard C. Norberg	Northern California United Church of Christ
Edwin O. Reischauer	Professor, Harvard University
Pat Samuels, Esq.	
Daniel Boone Schirmer	Historian and Author
Franz Schurmann	Professor, Berkley
Peter Dale Scott	Professor, Berkley
Charles Stein	Professor, Stanford
Marjorie Swann	Committee for Nonviolent Action
Albert Szent-Gyorgyi	Nobel Laureate
Eugene Turner	United Presbyterian Church, Pacific Synod
Edward Wagner	Professor, Harvard University
George Wald	Professor, Harvard University, Nobel Laureate
Howard Zinn	Professor

August 8, 1974

Address of the International Committee to Support Kim Chi-Ha and His Friends
 Ishii Building
 6-44 Kagurazaka
 Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo Japan

An Open Letter To President Park

August 8, 1974

After giving the matter due consideration, we come over to Seoul from Tokyo.

As clearly stated in the United Nations charter and the World Declaration of Human Rights, we believe the peoples of the world concur in their wish to secure conditions in which human dignity is respected, the freedom of thought preserved, and the freedom of political activity assured.

Acting upon this belief, we request President Park the following:

1. Assure Kim Dae Jung the complete freedom of movement including the freedom to go abroad.
2. Release all of the 53 prisoners including Kim Chi-Ha who were given sentences ranging from death penalty to 15 years of confinement at the recent military court of Korea, July, 1974. Release also all other political prisoners.
3. Release Tachikawa Masaaki and Hayakawa Yoshiharu, who were sentenced 20 years in the military court of Korea, July, 1974.

We, the five persons, who do not represent any political group in the form of government, knock upon the door of the official residence of the President of Korea today in the hope of faithfully transmitting to the President the voice of the concerned people similarly without power. We request that the President listens to the voice of such people.

On behalf of the INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT KIM CHI-HA AND
HIS FRIENDS.

HIDAKA ROKURO (CHAIRMAN)

OHSHIMA KOHICHI

FUJIEDA MIOKO

GEORGE WALD

FRED BRANFMAN

Charged With Subversion

Foreign Minister Kim insisted poet Kim and others were charged with subversion and that Kim Dae Jung was subject to the same legal restraints as his fellow countrymen, they said. Kim Dae Jung was kidnapped by Korean agents from Tokyo to Seoul a year ago.

The civil rights crusaders met Kim Dae Jung while they

of Japan and the US in Washington September 9.

Radio Pyongyang said that Vice-Premier Pak Sung Chul also attended the meeting.

It said Kim welcomed the visit to North Korea of Utsunomiya and his mission and added the meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere.

Kim hosted a luncheon for the Japanese visitors Friday. —Kyodo.

Steps Against ROK Urged

Civic campaign leaders took an unprecedented initiative Thursday and organized a joint struggle by civic groups and opposition political parties to urge the Tanaka Cabinet to review its aid to the Republic of Korea and appeal to the ROK Government to free all political prisoners.

At the call of Makoto Oda and Shin Aochi campaigning for the rescue of Kim Dae Jung and poet Kim Chi Ha, Chairmen Tomomi Narita of the Japan Socialist Party, Kenji Miyamoto of the Japan Communist Party and Yoshikatsu Takeiri of the Komeito met at the Hotel Grand Palace in Tokyo's Kudan Thursday afternoon.

The place of the meeting was the site of the abduction of former South Korean presidential candidate Kim Dae Jung, and the date was the first anniversary of the abduction.

At the meeting, the three political leaders agreed to launch a joint campaign with the civic groups on the premise that the state of affairs in South Korea today is "an insult and challenge to the dignity of man."

After the meeting they met the press and issued a joint appeal.

Oda represented the International Committee to Support Kim Chi Ha and His Friends while Aochi attended on behalf of the civic Liaison Council for Japan-ROK Relations which is campaigning for the release of Kim Dae Jung.

"The state of politics in the Republic of Korea today, where freedom has been undermined and democracy and the dignity of man has been trampled, is not a problem of the (South) Korean people alone," the ap-

peal said.

"The problem concerns the Japanese, whose Tanaka Government has backed up the dictatorship in the Republic of Korea, either directly or indirectly, and whose big enterprises have supported the Tanaka Government.

Calling for the review of Japan's aid by the Tanaka Cabinet and for the release of political prisoners by the ROK Government, the appeal said,

"We will launch joint actions." The first of these will be a massive, demonstration scheduled for mid-September.

Chairman Miyamoto said that his Communist Party, which had been rather idle on the issue, would step up its effort in line with the joint action.

Socialist leader Narita said that his party fully supports the initiative of the civic groups and would offer utmost collaboration in the joint action.

Chairman Takeiri said that the joint action did not mean "interference in South Korean affairs" and that "the joint action would be solely for the present issues which gravely concerned Japan."

Of the four opposition parties, the Democratic Socialist Party did not join in the action. The DSP apparently intends to stage an independent campaign, reflecting its refusal of joint action with the Communist Party.

Meanwhile, five Japanese and American intellectuals left Tokyo Thursday for Seoul to appeal to President Park Chung Hee for clemency for and release of poet Kim and Korean youths detained under emergency presidential decrees.

August 9, 1974
Mainichi Daily News

Mainichi Daily News
Aug. 11, 1974

Seoul Rejects Plea For Poet's Release

SEOUL (Kyodo) — A five-man mission headed by Rokuro Hidaka, former professor at Tokyo University, sought the release of dissident Korean poet Kim Chi Ha at a one-hour meeting with Foreign Minister Kim Dong Jo here Saturday morning.

The mission, representing the international committee to support Kim Chi Ha and his friends, arrived in Seoul Thursday.

Members of the mission, besides Hidaka, are Kochi Oshima, president of a Tokyo mission school, Miss Mioko Fujieda, chief editor of the Fukui Publishing Co., George Wald, professor at Harvard University, and Fred Branfman, deputy director of the Indochina Data Center of the United States.

Mission members delivered to Kim a petition addressed to President Park Chung Hee calling for the release of political detainees, including the poet and two Japanese held on charges of anti-government activities, and for freedom for Kim Dae Jung.

The petition bore 15,009 signatures, including those of French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre, former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt and Edwin Reischauer, professor at Harvard University and former U.S. Ambassador to Tokyo.

Prof. Wald, recipient of the Nobel Prize for physiology and medicine in 1967, told the South Korean Foreign Minister that the dignity of man had been undermined in South Korea. He said the mission was being barred from contact with democratic people in South Korea.

Branfman demanded permission to meet political prisoners here.

Foreign Minister Kim, however, maintained that Kim Chi Ha and the others had violated domestic law and were due to be punished.

Prof. Wald said the U.S. Government should take a sterner stance on the issue of human rights in South Korea. He added that he would report on the details of his talk with Kim to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and other U.S. congressional leaders.

Upon returning to Tokyo Saturday evening, the mission members said that South Ko-

rean Foreign Minister Kim had refused to accept their petition seeking freedom for political prisoners in the country.

They also said the Korean minister turned down their request for an interview with President Park Chung Hee.

According to the members of the mission, Foreign Minister Kim said that Kim Chi Ha was charged with subversive activities directed against the Government of the ROK and that Kim Dae Jung was subject to the same legal restrictions as his fellow countrymen.

Hidaka, the leader of the group, said the members of the group were warned upon arrival in Seoul by Korean officials that they would be held responsible for any legal trouble they might cause while in South Korea.

He himself was told that he would not be permitted to see even his former students at Tokyo University, the professor said.

Prof. Wald said he has never felt so strong a threat to his life as he did in South Korea.

"Foreign Minister Kim repeatedly talked about the threat from the North, but people in South Korea are under the threat of their own government," he added.

August 8, 1974

(第3種郵便物認可)

One Year Passes: Mainichi Daily News

Mystery Hangs Over Kim Case

A full year has passed since the abduction of Kim Dae Jung—a Korean opposition leader—from the Hotel Grand Palace in Tokyo's Kudanshita on August 8 last year.

Despite the frantic efforts of the "special investigation headquarters" of the Metropolitan Police Department, the thick veil of mystery hanging over the case has not been entirely lifted.

Following is a picture of the case depicted in terms of what has not been unravelled.

- The police are still unable to "positively" identify the "mysterious man" by the name of Kinjiro Hatanaka. In reserving a room at the Hotel Grand Palace on August 6 last year, he designated the room he wanted—Room 2210 which is next to Rooms 2211 and 2212, in one of which Kim was scheduled to have a talk with Yang Il Dong, president of the Democratic Unification Party of South Korea.

Police believe that "Hatanaka" is a ranking Korean agent, who masterminded the plan to abduct Kim Dae Jung.

- Police also believe that the plan to kidnap Kim had been worked out at least two months before the incident took place. The plan, according to the police, is believed to have been the work of a group of people, including Kim Dong Woon, the then first secretary at the Korean Embassy in Tokyo.

Police theorize that the group started working on the plan in May when they learned that Kim was coming to Tokyo in July after a two-month tour of the United States.

According to the police, the group asked a (Japanese) private detective agency and a Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force man to watch Kim during his stay in Tokyo—and decided to carry out the plan when they learned that Kim was to have talks in mid-August with leaders of North Korea.

It is said that the kidnapers consisted of some 20 Koreans, some of who came to Japan from Korea and the United States.

- It has been discovered that Kim Dae Jung and his supporters in South Korea exchanged "secret missives" on July 10 last year through the good offices of a "certain man." It is

also known that Kim had a talk with Yan Il Dong at a "certain place" in Tokyo, aside from their talks on July 29 at the Tokyo Hilton and on August 8 at the Hotel Grand Palace.

The police, however, are not sure as to what the missives contained and what Kim and Yan talked about at their clandestine meeting.

- The police are not certain, either, as to how Kim Dae Jung was taken out of the hotel and, then, how actually he was transported to South Korea.

Kim himself has said that he sought the help of a Japanese couple in an elevator of the hotel into which he was taken by his abductors. But, after a series of investigations, the police discovered the couple Kim claimed seeing was not a young man and woman but an old man and a young man.

- The police are also wondering how Kim can remember chronologically—and so clearly at that—what took place during the 129-hour trip to Korea when his eyes were blindfolded.

Likewise, the police are baffled by the discrepancy in Kim's own account and the findings of police investigations as to how he was brought to a place believed to be in Shiga Prefecture from where he was taken to Korea.

In his account, Kim had said he was driven in a Japanese car. But police investigations indicate that he was driven in a foreign-made car. The police are not sure, either, whether Kim was brought home by ship or by plane.

Rumpus in PEN Club

Being poets, essayists and novelists, the members of the Japan PEN Club are rugged individualists on the whole. It is thus not surprising that it should be racked from time to time by incompatibility of views and emotional outbursts — especially when political issues are taken up.

The center of the tempest on this occasion was the dispatch of writer Taisuke Fujishima and Keio University Professor Koji Shirai to the Republic of Korea on a fact-finding visit in connection with the sentencing of Korean poet Kim Chi Ha and the statements attributed to them at a Seoul press conference.

Mr. Fujishima had said that Mr. Kim, whose sentence has been reduced from death to life, had been penalized for his activities in providing funds to the outlawed Democratic Student-Youth League and not for his literary efforts which have generally been deemed antiestablishment. And he has been reported as adding that the question of the freedom of expression was not involved.

Several prominent members of the Japan PEN Club took this to mean that their delegates, Messrs. Fujishima and Shirai had placed a stamp of approval on their behalf of the policies being pursued by the ROK Government. Without bothering to hear a full report from the two men, they forthwith resigned from the club. This headlong action by respected writers and commentators who should know better, however, does reflect the fretfulness and emotionalism which have of late characterized the Japanese reaction to anything concerning South Korea. They no longer have the patience to listen dispassionately to facts.

Faced with this situation, the PEN Club directors met in an emergency session which produced two decisions. One was to postpone judgment on whether or not to accept the resignations of board members until the return of the club's president, Mr. Kojiro Serizawa, who is convalescing in Europe. The other was to disassociate the PEN Club from the statements made by their delegates in Seoul. It was agreed they were speaking only in a private capacity.

There have been some unkind comments made about these "decisions" which are hardly decisive. But there is little doubt Messrs. Fujishima and Shirai were talking out of turn when they spoke to the press in Seoul, prior to making a full report to the PEN Club which had dispatched them to South Korea on an investigatory mission. The eagerness of the Korean news media to obtain a "preview" of delegates' report, however, should also be understandable to journalists anywhere.

And the two PEN representatives who reported later to the emergency board meeting are said to have stuck to the same story which had caused such a furore. It is a matter of record that Mr. Kim Chi Ha, who is a poet by calling, was tried and sentenced by the ROK military tribunal for his alleged monetary contributions to the student group, planning the overthrow of the Park Government. Messrs. Fujishima and Shirai had to depend on facts and not their imagination, and they had no evidence in the least to prove the trials were held for the purpose of suppressing the freedom of speech and expression, as claimed by some here. And it was only natural they should have welcomed the reduction of Mr. Kim's sentence.

It was unfortunate that the two PEN delegates gave a statement in Seoul and it was equally regretful some PEN members were so impatient they could not wait for a full report. Otherwise, the mission did what was required of it — to investigate the circumstances of Mr. Kim Chi Ha's arrest, trial and sentence and in offering him support in doing so.

Some of the Japan PEN Club's stormiest moments have come when it dealt with political issues, such as the National Police Law and the Japan-U.S. security treaty, and tried to mobilize a consensus. The fact is that poets, essayists and novelists work alone and their products emerge from an individual mind. It is only natural that the PEN members should hold differing views and values.

It is thus unfortunate that some of them should have

Japan Times